9/18/70

Dear Jim,

It is kind of you to take the time and trouble to help. I wrote you initially, more openly than I did Hal or Paul, fearing that if the possibility Paul was under compulsion proved warranted, caution was required. I think Hal has flagged interest in himself that may still exist. I went into this with him long ago, and I believe he finally concurred.

The time for ellipsis is now past. As you can see from the enclosed (please give or send to Hal after you've read), I'm fairly blunt and open with Paul. I agree with Hal on Paul's integrity and with you about his inclination toward bullheadedness. He insists, for example, on trusting those he knows are untrustworthy, explaining it to his own (apparent) satisfaction as the need of cooperation.

I just can't understand this at all. Paul is bright as can be, and that is a stupidity. It is subject to misuse only and cannot on any score qualify as scientific.

It is good that you did show Hal my letter, for without solace as his was, it was sufficient to tell me I have to discard my conjecture and take what preliminary steps may be required to counter this new horror. What an awful way to spend time, and how much I have to waste that way! If I hear nothing from Paul in a few more days, I'm writing to Physics World or Physcis Today. I now have their address. I shun and delay not to hurt Paul's reputation and to give him ample time. Not that more than two weeks isn't enough time!

Although you didn't read Hal's letter (and I agree opinions should be independent, hence I sent out no copies of what I sent Paul), you say pretty much what he did.

You are completely correct in saying the melon is no duplicate of the head and in itself disqualifies the "test". This is true of your other points, too. There is one explanation of the generally forward spray of tissue (it may also be to the left, possibly much to the left) this "science" ignores. That is, what happens when there is an explosion? Is all the force focused in a single direction, with a projectile, that of the line of motion? I suspect the explosion is in all directions. But as to the spray, all the credible evidence is that most of it went in the wrong direction and much of this in one that is impossible under the official fiction. Unless math is no longer science.

Your quote from it, on the meaning of the head motion, is a copout. If there can be no unequivocal statement, why make any? How "scientific" is unofficial conjecture which is without support in the ignored but relevant material?

I agree he is uncomfortable about what he has done. That becomes clear on the cover page and is one of the things that led me to think as I did. Alvarez is an arrogant whore. Olson's other work is at best dubious and much is grossly erroneous. His undergraduate training included police science. He did a bad paper on Zapruder, as I recall. And so you will understand, the backward and sideways motions are separate. One did not cause the other. More, before the body falls to its left, it pivots. I gave Hal a copy of a memo I did on this after discovering that PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH had smoked out the missing nine frames...Again I thank you for the time and above all, the forthrightness. Anything else could only deceive and perhaps lead me into more error. I'd welcome anything else you pick up or deduce. I hope Hal will find time for rapid communication, if there is anything to communicate...And I have sent him nothing he need keep secret from you (two)...Tearsheet: news to me. I wonder if someone has misplaced Raven Rock, Pa., in Virginia? Sincerely